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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

INVINCIBLE RED SONJA

CONNER MOUNTS

The Magic Is Back in Invincible Red Sonja

Looking for more sorcery in your sword and sorcery? Then ***Invincible Red Sonja*** is the book you've been waiting for.

The new series by writers *Amanda Conner & Jimmy Palmiotti* and artist *Moritat* is, in many ways, a "back to the basics" Red Sonja comic that re-emphasizes the supernatural elements in Sonja's world. "The simple pitch is Amanda and I are writing ***Red Sonja*** and *Moritat* is drawing it," Palmiotti said. "If you must know some of the story even after that, well... Sonja is hired to protect a princess while a bounty is on her head; she pisses off a wizard that puts a curse on her, and all this takes place in a city next to a volcano that is almost ready to explode. There is so much more to it than that, but that's the most basic of the story. Oh, and somewhere in the story Sonja fights monsters and an army. I think a look at the covers and art will sell this all on another level, but for us, it will be six solid months of classic Sonja doing what she does best.

"Amanda and I are both huge fans of the classic Red Sonja by *Roy Thomas* and artists like *Barry Windsor-Smith* and *Frank Thorne* and figured that we would tell the story that we would want to read and add everything we think will be a lot of fun for fans of the character to enjoy. The fantasy past of Sonja has always been with the character, and it is our job as writers to take it all to the next level. We want to leave an impression and give the die-hard fans what they want and cast a net to snag any new fans reading the character for the first time. It's our opportunity to get new eyes on the character, so it's up to us to bring everything we love about the character to the series. Our hope is fans of our work on ***Harley Quinn*** will come over and give the book a shot."

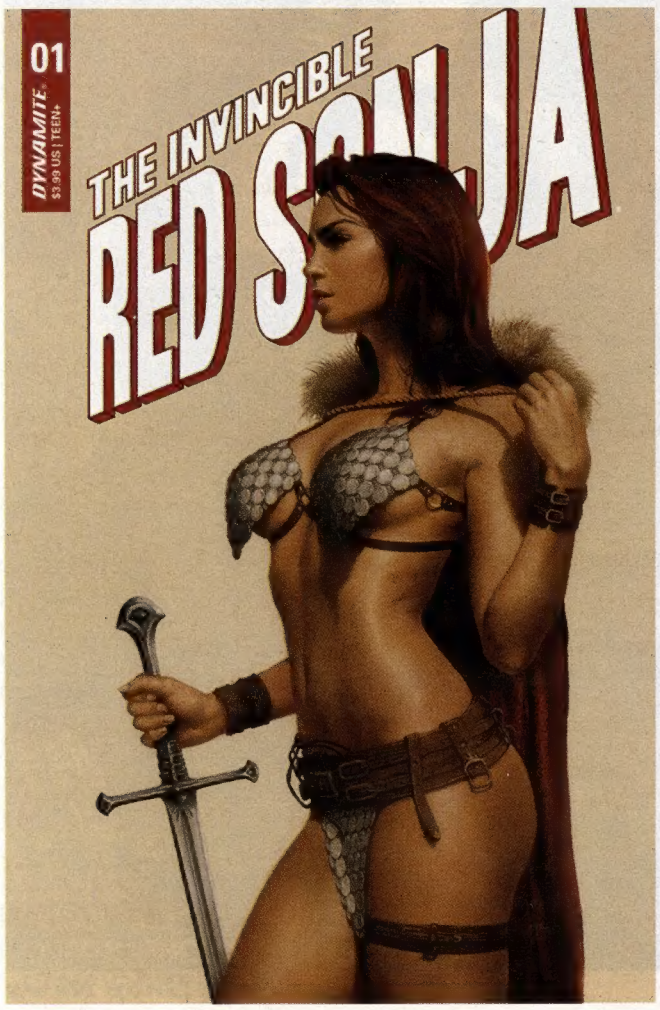
"I have loved Red Sonja since I was about 12 years old," *Amanda Conner* added. "I wanted to grow up to be her at one point, but it's just not the Hyborian Age any more. Which I guess is a good thing."

While Palmiotti enjoys the historical (or prehistorical) elements of the Sonja mythos, he believes the book needs the right mix of historical action-adventure and fantasy. And what is that right mix? "The right mix is delivering a story that stays true to who Sonja is—someone with a clear focus on her destiny who isn't afraid to stay grounded and live in the minute," Palmiotti said. "She understands there is a time to work and a time to play, and we explore this and many more classic elements of the character within our story. The book itself moves at a breakneck speed during the action scenes and slows a bit to build up the character moments between the cast. We think this series is just the right mix to make everyone happy."

Both Palmiotti and Conner are fans of sword and sorcery, "in both movies and comics," said Palmiotti. "I have a full set of ***Sonja*** books and the first hundred issues of ***Conan*** in my collection as well as dozens of other titles related to the genre. We both enjoy fantasy and the elements of the storytelling that make the world wide open for just about anything one can imagine to come alive in a story. And if you must know, we are also both fans of ***Game of Thrones***—but really, who isn't?"

How do the writers make a veteran character like Sonja fresh and appealing? "That's simple, really," Palmiotti said. "Our approach is from our POV, so with everything we do, we see the world in our own way, and part of that process is the discovery aspect of storytelling. It is how a company chooses its creators—the idea that it will see what each new creator brings to the table. We will not be reinventing the wheel here, but we will be adding a lot of things Amanda and I are known to bring to any character we get our hands on. This series will push all the envelopes."

What brought Conner, Palmiotti, and Moritat to ***Invincible Red Sonja***? "Amanda and I were just finishing up the last issue of ***Harley Quinn and the Birds of Prey*** when we got the call from Dynamite to see if there was any interest in writing the series, and it was the perfect call at the perfect time for us. Amanda and I have been reading the character since day one, so it all made sense. We are both huge Sonja and Conan fans, and I think readers will get this right away when they read the story and hear the language."



As fans of Conner and Palmiotti's work know, this is not the first time they have worked with *Moritat*. He previously joined them both on an issue of ***Harley Quinn***—and prior to that, he worked with Palmiotti and co-writer *Justin Gray* on Jonah Hex's New 52 adventures in ***All-Star Western***. What makes Moritat the right artist for ***Invincible Red Sonja***? "Just look at the art," said Palmiotti. "*Moritat* is one of the most versatile and underrated artists in the business, and every chance I get to work with him I grab. We had just finished ***Killing Time*** in America for my company Paperfilms when we were trying to figure out what to do next, and then Sonja happened. He was the first call I made to see if he was available—and once that was nailed, we wrote the book knowing he was the artist on it, so we were able to take advantage of knowing what he does best. There is so much love in each and every page. He is a modern-day *Barry Windsor-Smith*."

Palmiotti is confident that former ***Red Sonja*** readers who have moved away from the series in recent years are going to like what they find in the pages of ***Invincible Red Sonja #1***. "The reason they moved away will no longer make any sense, because we are delivering the Sonja they have been missing. I personally say just give the book a chance, and I am sure we will hook you. We will not be changing Sonja and her character; she will not suddenly be talking in paragraphs or lose the sword and fight people with a stick or anything like that. This will be done like classic Sonja, classic themes and so on. It just might be a little sexier than most of her older adventures, but that remains to be seen. Look, we got killer mermaids and pirates in the first issue—what more could you ask for?"

"Amanda and Jimmy have built up an incredible fanbase and are two of the best-selling creators in the industry. They took Harley Quinn to new levels and helped the title become a juggernaut at DC," Dynamite CEO and Publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "They also happen to be two of the nicest, most talented, and hardest-working people in the business as well. We've talked about finding the right project together for the last two years; their schedule opened up, and it is with one of our signature characters. I'm so happy that they are tackling Red Sonja and that they have such a passion for the character."

Invincible Red Sonja #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for May release. The first issue will feature covers by *Amanda Conner, Joseph Michael Linsner,* and *Carla Cohen*, plus the Dynamite debut of *Celina* and a limited edition "outrage" variant by *Frank Cho.*

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Coming Comics—DC in May

After a war-torn battleship escapes Warworld and makes the perilous journey to Earth, Superman searches for answers about the identities of its mysterious refugees and their apparent link to the planet Krypton in ***Action Comics #1031*** (by *Phillip Kennedy Johnson & Daniel Sampere)*. Could there be other Kryptonians in the universe? Meanwhile, Atlantean scientists study the wreckage of the Warworld vessel and make a shocking discovery that could change the balance of power on Earth.

Cut to their core by an act of unspeakable betrayal, the team must think fast to regroup and recover—but with two of their lives hanging by a thread and a third taken captive to be sacrificed to the Beast, hope and practical solutions are in short supply in ***American Vampire 1976 #8*** (by *Scott Snyder & Rafael Albuquerque)*. As a demon army prepares to rise from the earth on the eve of America's bicentennial celebration, an old friend of the VMS steps in to assist, and Gus gets a chance to rewrite his grim fate.

Batman goes undercover to infiltrate the transhumanist gang known as the Unsanity Collective and learn more about its sudden appearance in Gotham in ***Batman #108*** (by *James Tynion IV & Jorge Jimenez)*. This issue also features a Ghost-Maker backup story featuring the debut of the mysterious Miracle Molly!

Batman Black & White #6 features a *Scott Snyder–John Romita Jr* tale introducing a man

who has been documenting Batman's history in Gotham for a very long time, a *Nick Derington* tale introducing two gangs whose power struggle in Gotham has been going on longer than the history of the city itself, an *Elsa Charretier–Pierrick Colinet* tale of psychological horror and the Dark Knight, a *John Arcudi–James Harren* Clayface story, and a *Brandon Thomas–Khari Randolph* short featuring the Mad Hatter.

Batman's European adventure continues in ***Batman: The Detective #2*** (by *Tom Taylor, Andy Kubert, & Sandra Hope)* as the mystery around the organization known as Equilibrium deepens! Just who are these enigmatic villains, and why are they out to erase the Dark Knight's legacy? And how does Henri Ducard play into all this?

Throughout her life, Catwoman's actions have caused many close to her to doubt her motivations. Bruce Wayne, Phantasm, and now her daughter have all had their suspicions about her deals with the Joker. And when she killed the old clown, did it trigger this feline's ninth life? Or maybe it was really over all those years ago, the first time Phantasm drew her blood and Batman had to face a harsh truth. There are big revelations waiting in ***Batman/Catwoman #6*** (by *Tom King & Clay Mann)*.

A gang of thieves thrusts Gotham City into a state of fear when it is mysteriously well armed with military-grade weapons: flamethrowers, grenade launchers, and even tanks. And this gang claims it is funded by none other than former district attorney Harvey Dent. Balancing his two lives, Bruce Wayne must find the truth by tapping his growing network of agents, including Alfred Pennyworth, Jim Gordon, Waylon "Killer Croc" Jones, and the savvy new Catwoman in ***Batman: Earth One Volume 3 HC***, a 160-page original graphic novel by *Geoff Johns, Gary Frank, & Jon Sibal*. Bruce is distracted by the seemingly impossible return of another figure believed dead: his grandfather Adrian Arkham. He must also comfort his longtime friend, Gotham City Mayor Jessica Dent, who is scarred both physically and mentally from her experience with the Riddler, which resulted in the gruesome death of her brother. But is Harvey back, plotting revenge on a city he proclaims to be guilty? When Batman discovers the truth behind these many mysteries, his entire world unravels...

Scooby-Doo and Batman team up to solve the mystery of a ghost who's haunting the Batcave in ***The Batman and Scooby-Doo Mysteries #2*** (by *Sholly Fisch & Randy Elliott)*.

In ***Batman/Superman #18*** (by *Gene Luen Yang & Ivan Reis)*, the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel are on a mission to stop the godlike Auteur.io from destroying the pocket worlds he's created... but where on Earth did Auteur.io even come from?

Batman: Urban Legends #3 features new tales starring the Grifter, the Outsiders, and Red Hood, presented by *Chip Zdarsky, Matthew Rosenberg, Brandon Thomas, Eddy Barrows, Ryan Benjamin, Max Dunbar,* and others.

Catwoman and Shoes have crashed Mr Roy's home art gallery opening in ***Catwoman #31*** (by *Ram V & Fernando Blanco)*, but they're not after art. Instead, they're after the newest addition to Mr Roy's esteemed collection: a large test tube containing Poison Ivy!

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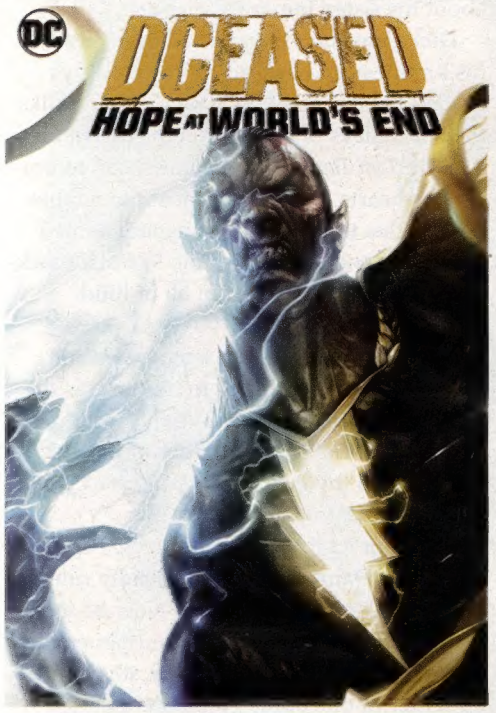
Once the Doom Scroll inscribes a name on its mystical list, the bearer of that name will be imminently killed—and the heroes of the Justice League are being targeted one by one! Who's the target in ***Challenge of the Super-Sons* #2** (by *Peter J. Tomasi, Max Raynor, & Jorge Corona)?* Wonder Woman!

With the Crime Syndicate's forces combined for the first time, seeds are sown to change the world forever in ***Crime Syndicate #3*** (by *Andy Schmidt & Kieron McKeown)*. But before that can happen, Ultraman, Superia, Johnny Quick, Atomica, and Emerald Knight must survive a final battle with the biggest Starro of them all—and each other! Plus: Earth-3's Alexander Luthor makes his debut!



In Earth's darkest hour, heroes will bring hope in ***DCeased: Hope at World's End HC*** (by *Tom Taylor, Dustin Nguyen, Carmine Di Giandomenico,* and others), taking place within the timeline of the original epic! This saga expands the world of that original DCeased series by filling in that story's time jump and focusing on characters including Superman, Wonder Woman, Martian Manhunter, Stephanie Brown, Wally West, and Jimmy Olsen. The Anti-Life Equation has infected over a billion people on Earth. Heroes and villains have fallen. In the immediate aftermath of the destruction of Metropolis, Superman and Wonder Woman spearhead an effort to stem the tide of infection, preserve and protect survivors, and plan for what comes next. In the Earth's darkest hour, heroes will bring hope!

DC celebrates Asian Heritage Month with ***DC Festival of Heroes: The Asian Super-Hero Celebration #1,*** featuring fan-favorite Asian DC characters, old and new! Join Cassandra Cain, Katana, Green Lantern Tai Pham, the Atom, Dana Tan (aka Batman Beyond), Red Arrow, Lady Shiva, Damian Wayne and the al Ghul clan, New Super-Man, and more in new tales by *Gene Luen Yang, Ram V, Greg Pak, Alyssa Wong, Amy Chu, Minh Le, Dustin Nguyen, Marcus To, Bernard Chang, Marcio Takara, Trung Le Nguyen, Francis Manapul,* and others. Plus, Cheshire Cat's relationship to Cheshire is revealed as Shoes asks Selina Kyle to take her under her wing as Cat Girl. And that's just the start!

As the Dark Knight delves into the mystery of Sarah Worth's murder, the only witness who truly knows what happened that fateful evening is Batman's only hope to clear his name. But another hunter is stalking the mysterious killer plaguing the city—and Huntress has also set her sights on Bruce Wayne in ***Detective Comics #1036*** (by *Mariko Tamaki & Dan Mora)*, which also features a Huntress backup tale.

The new ruler of the Kingdom of Faerie stands revealed in ***The Dreaming: Waking Hours #10*** (by *G. Willow Wilson, Nick Robles, & MK Perker)*—and it's... Nuala? And amid this chaos, what secret from Heather After's past will reemerge when she needs it most?

Dropped into the battlefields of World War II, Wally West continues his search for a way home in ***The Flash #770*** (by *Jeremy Adams, Jack Herbert, & Brandon Peterson)*. As the Fastest Man Alive comes face to face with the Führer himself, Wally's friends in the present day search for a way to bring him back.

Disaster strikes Gotham City, and all evidence points to the Next Batman in ***Future State: Gotham #1*** (by *Joshua Williamson, Dennis Culver, & Giannis Milonogiannis)*! Red Hood must choose justice over his family and allies when the corrupt Magistrate enlists him to bring in the new Batman dead or alive! Featuring the entire cast from the popular ***Future State Batman*** titles, this new series kicks off the next chapter in this forbidding world of tomorrow, and it does so in stark black and white, showcasing the brutal world that's around the corner in Future State Gotham!

A Guardian of the Universe lies dead, and the universe teeters on the brink of war in ***Green Lantern #2*** (by *Geoffrey Thorne, Dexter Soy, & Marco Santucci)*. As the summit of the United Planets and the Green Lantern Corps falls into chaos, an even bigger threat looms. With John Stewart reassigned to the role of ambassador, a surprise appearance by ***Far Sector's*** Jo Mullein may be all that stands between the Corps and oblivion.

Harley's war of wellness with Hugo Strange kicks into high gear in ***Harley Quinn #3*** (by *Stephanie Phillips & Riley Rossmo)*, and things are gonna get ugly.

Seventeen-year-old Mandy, daughter of Starfire, is not like her mother. Starfire is gorgeous, tall, and sparkly and a hero. Mandy is not a sparkly superhero. Mandy has no powers. She's a kid who dyes her hair black and hates everyone but her best friend, Lincoln. To Starfire, who is from another planet, Mandy seems like an alien, like some distant, angry, light-years away moon. And ever since she walked out on her SATs, which her mom doesn't know about, Mandy has been even more distant. Everyone thinks Mandy needs to go to college and become whoever you become at college, but Mandy has other plans in ***I Am Not Starfire TP,*** an original graphic novel by *Mariko Tamaki & Yoshi Yoshitani.*

The hunt for Joker continues in ***The Joker #3*** (by *James Tynion IV & Guillem March)* as Jim Gordon heads to a remote part of South America to run down a lead... and comes face to face with the Clown Prince of Crime himself! And in the Punchline backup story, Punchline has to face off against the Queen of Spades' new muscle, Orca!

The new Justice League is trapped on a world devastated by a superpowered war, and Brutus hungers for a new home of his own—our Earth! With their powers gone haywire, the League must fight their way out of a postapocalyptic Thunderdome in ***Justice League #61*** (by *Brian Bendis & David Marquez)*. On the run with Batman, Naomi learns more dark secrets of her birth world's broken legacy, while Hawkgirl and Black Canary battle through the henchmen trenches. This issue also features a Justice League Dark backup story.

Once the most powerful group in the world, the Justice League was destroyed by tragedy and time, disbanding under a veil of mistrust and anger. Now, on the eve of the universe's greatest murder trial, the League must come together one last time in ***Justice League: Last Ride #1*** (by *Chip Zdarsky & Miguel Mendonca)*... but can Superman and Batman bury the past before the cosmos's greatest villains bury them?

A new player has arrived on the scene in Gotham City and is selling deadly chemicals to the worst villains in town: Mr Freeze, Penguin, and even Joker! It's up to Batman to stop the villains, track down the supplier, and save Gotham City once more in ***Legends of the Dark Knight #1*** (by *Darick Robertson)*. And in upcoming issues, look for stories and art by *Stephanie Phillips, Brandon Thomas, Becky Cloonan, Matt Rosenberg, Brandon Easton, Cian Tormey, Giannis Milonogiannis, Karl Mostert*, and many more!

MAD #20 features a monstrous smackdown salute to Godzilla and King Kong!

After a disastrous encounter with the Suicide Squad, a therapy session with Harley Quinn, and (yet another) failed attempt to cure himself, Langston is located at last by the Dark Knight in ***Man-Bat #4*** (by *Dave Wielgosz & Sumit Kumar)*. The only problem? Scarecrow got there first!

Milestone Returns: Infinite Edition #0 (by *Reginald Hudlin, Denys Cowan, Bill Sienkiewicz*, and others) features 24 all-new pages chronicling the events of the Big Bang: the police-brutality protest gone wrong that changed the face of the city of Dakota forever by unleashing a wave of superpowers across its population! As the world watches, a bullied teenager will become the hero known as Static... a framed scientist will go on the run as the superweapon Hardware... and a stranded alien will meet an ambitious young woman who will transform his life, remaking the pair as the all-powerful Icon and Rocket! Also included is the 17-page primer story originally released online during the DC FanDome event, further expanding on our heroes' origins and where they're going next... and setting up an entire world of allies, enemies, and surprises!

The story of how Shilo Norman became the Mister Miracle of tomorrow begins in ***Mister Miracle: The Source of Freedom #1*** (by *Brandon Easton & Fico Ossio)*. The Mister Miracle show used to be the hottest ticket in town, whether you caught him onstage escaping from perilous traps or spotted him on the streets of Metropolis taking out bad guys. What Shilo Norman forgot is the first rule of both showbiz and superheroing: always leave them wanting more. Now it's time to start showing the world what a miracle man can do. But there's a new performer in town who wants to knock Mister Miracle off his pedestal and stake a claim to his famous moniker!

The untold story of Lucius Fox's second son continues in ***The Next Batman: Second Son #2*** (by *John Ridley, Travel Foreman, & Mark Morales)*. Tim Fox is struggling to find his place in the family after having been gone so many years... and his younger brother, Luke, won't let him forget it! But Tim's investigation into Arkadine takes a turn as he realizes there's a connection with the shadowy Simon Saint! Meanwhile, Batwing is tearing into the underworld in search of Ratcatcher, looking for answers about his sister Tamara's relapse!

Dick Grayson's always had a big heart; his kindness and generosity have always guided his life. But now a new villain stalks the back alleys of Blüdhaven in ***Nightwing #80*** (by *Tom Taylor & Bruno Redondo)*, removing the hearts of the city's most vulnerable. Who is this terrifying new menace named Heartless, and will he be able to resist plucking out the biggest heart in all of Blüdhaven?

Renee Montoya's path from a closeted police officer in the 1990s to her time as the faceless vigilante known as the Question is the focus of ***The Other History of the DC Universe #4*** (by *John Ridley, Giuseppe Camuncoli, & Andrea Cucchi)*.

In ***Robin #2*** (by *Joshua Williamson & Gleb Melnikov)*, Damian learns the deadly rules of Lazarus Island the hard way! Now he must prove that he belongs in the tournament and uncover its secrets. But his only ally is the daughter of one of his greatest enemies: Ravager!

As the detective digs deeper into the mystery behind Rorschach and his sidekick in ***Rorschach #8*** (by *Tom King & Jorge Fornes)*, the story becomes about not what they wanted to do but why they started on their murderous path. As more witnesses emerge, the stranger Laura's history is revealed to be.

Weiss comes face to face with a brooding boy accused of theft at the Schnee Dust Company dinner and, in an act of defiance, teams up with him to prove his innocence, combining their shrewd detective skills in

RWBY/Justice League #2 (by *Marguerite Bennett & Stephanie Pepper)*. And then, the girls reunite at Beacon Academy with their mysterious new friends.

In ***Sensational Wonder Woman #3*** (by *Colleen Doran*), Wonder Woman faces her most relentless foe yet: a marketing maven who would sell her Louboutins for the chance to manage the Amazing Amazon! Can Wonder Woman escape her most persistent pitches?

Courtney Whitmore's spring break plans aren't like your average high schooler's. Instead of hanging out with friends, she's heading out on an adventure with her stepfather, Pat Dugan, aka STRIPE, and teaming up with his former team, the Seven Soldiers of Victory, in ***Stargirl Spring Break Special #1*** (by *Geoff Johns & Todd Nauck)*! The Soldiers are forced to reunite to unearth the secret eighth Soldier of Victory, but what other secrets lie buried, and what does it all mean for Courtney's future as Stargirl?

Once upon a time on Rann, Adam Strange made a deal with his neighbors and foes to take a stand against the invading Pykkts. Now, on Earth, he is trying to do the same thing in ***Strange Adventures #10*** (by *Tom King, Mitch Gerads, & Evan "Doc" Shaner)*: to get all the heroes to rise as one to keep the marauders from doing to his home planet what they already did to his adopted one. But the original deal was a devil's bargain, and Alanna Strange has received a mysterious letter that may tell her more than she wants to know. If she wants to keep her husband safe, it's time for her to go on the offensive.

Task Force X finds a new target, and it leads the clandestine team right to Teen Titans Academy in ***Suicide Squad #3*** (by *Robbie Thompson & Eduardo Pansica)*. The devious and driven Amanda Waller continues her quest to form a more powerful Squad, and next on her list: the Titans' new speedster, Bolt. The story continues into ***Teen Titans Academy #3*** (by *Tim Sheridan & Rafa Sandoval)* as Red X gets involved in a surprising way.

Thought to have been defeated long ago by Superman and his allies, the ancient Shadowbreed have returned in a horrifying new form, and Superman's oldest ally has been assimilated into their ranks in ***Superman #31*** (by *Phillip Kennedy Johnson & Scott Godlewski)*. As Jon and the besieged new Thakkramite leader search for the key that will help them defeat the creatures, Superman returns to the site of his first historic victory over the Shadowbreed in an attempt to warn the Thakkramites of the incoming threat. This issue also features a Jimmy Olsen backup story.

Superman Red & Blue #3 features visits to both Smallville and the Fortress of Solitude to learn about an object that was important to Superman on his trip to Earth, and we see the lasting impact that has on those around him. Plus, someone has to take down the electro-mechano-organic intelligence they call Kilg%re, but even he's nothing compared to the massive monster waiting in the farthest reaches of space.

Reeling from his battle with the Pale Wanderer, Levi Kamei seeks the true nature of his transformations in ***The Swamp Thing #3*** (by *Ram V & Mike Perkins)*. And what better place to find his roots than the heart of the Green itself?

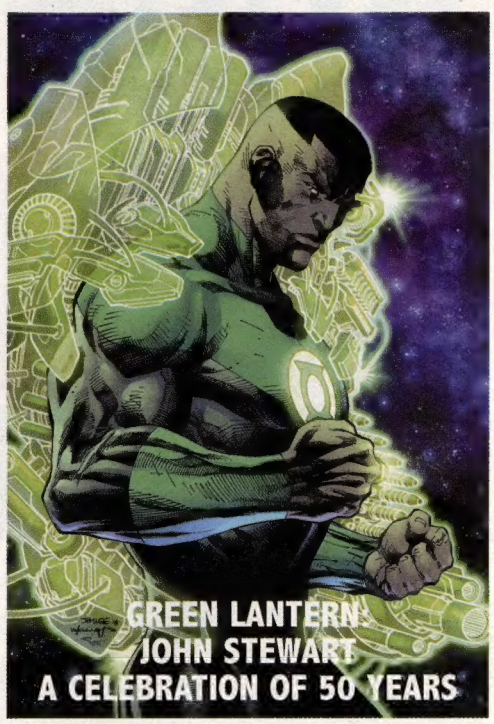
A friend from Jason Todd's past is found dead in an alley, and the Red Hood is on the warpath for the killer in ***Truth & Justice #4*** (by *Jeff Trammell & Rob Guillory*). But in his pursuit, Jason finds himself facing down his own past.

Raised in the faroff land of Boise, Idaho, Yara Flor has always felt something was missing from her life—and now she is headed to Brazil to find it in *Joëlle Jones's* ***Wonder Girl #1.*** Little does she know her arrival will set off a series of events that will change the world of Wonder Woman forever.

Wonder Woman may have outsmarted the beasts of Asgard for now, but nothing has prepared her for what's to come in ***Wonder Woman #772*** (by *Becky Cloonan, Michael W. Conrad, & Travis Moore)*. Diana's darkest self has emerged as a new opponent, and she'll need help from an unexpected ally whose connection to thunder has inspired many a tale: Thor! The backup story takes Diana deep into the depths of Themyscira's oceans to learn more about the mysterious manuscripts left to her.

DC collected editions (advance solicited for June, July, and August release) include:

- ***Absolute Swamp Thing by Alan Moore Volume 3 HC,*** an oversized slipcased hardcover collecting ***Swamp Thing #s 51–64*** and ***DC Comics Presents #85,*** complete with stunning new color by *Steve Oliff.*
- ***Batman: White Knight Presents Harley Quinn HC,*** collecting ***Batman: White Knight Presents Harley Quinn #s 1–6*** and a story from ***Harley Quinn Black + White + Red Digital Chapter 6.***
- ***Aquaman: Deep Dives TP,*** collecting stories from ***Aquaman Giant #s 1–4*** and ***Aquaman: Deep Dives #s 4, 6–7, & 9.***
- ***Batman: Damned TP,*** collecting the three-issue series.
- ***Batman Volume 3: Ghost Stories HC,*** collecting ***Batman #s 101–105,*** a story from ***Detective Comics #1027,*** and more.
- ***DC Comics: Generations HC,*** collecting ***Generations Shattered, Generations Forged,*** and more.
- ***The Flash by Mark Waid Book Eight TP,*** collecting ***The Flash #s 151–162, The Flash Annual #12,*** and more.
- ***Fourth World by John Byrne Omnibus HC,*** collecting ***New Gods #s 12–15 (1997), Jack Kirby's Fourth World #s 1–20,*** and ***Genesis #s 1–4.***
- ***Future State: Justice League TP,*** collecting ***Future State: Justice League #s 1–2, Future State: The Flash #s 1–2, Future State: Green Lantern #s 1–2,*** and ***Future State: Aquaman #s 1–2.***
- ***Future State: The Next Batman TP,*** collecting ***Future State: The Next Batman #s 1–4*** and selected stories from ***Future State: Dark Detective #s 1–4*** and ***Future State: Nightwing #s 1–2.***
- ***Future State: Superman TP,*** collecting ***Future State: Superman of Metropolis #s 1–2; Future State: Superman—Worlds of War #s 1–2; Future State: Superman vs Imperious Lex #s 1–3; Future State: Kara Zor-El, Superwoman #s 1–2; Future State: Legion of Super-Heroes #s 1–2;*** and ***Future State: Superman—House of El #1.***
- ***Green Lantern: John Stewart—A Celebration of 50 Years HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Vol 2 #s 87, 182, & 185; Green Lantern Vol 3 #s 74 & 156; Green Lantern Vol 4 #49; Green Lantern: Mosaic #18;*** and ***Justice League of America #110.***



• ***Justice League of America: The Bronze Age Omnibus Volume 3 HC,*** collecting ***Justice League of America #s 147–182, Super-Team Family #s 11–14, DC Special #27, DC Special Series #6, Secret Society of Super-Villains #15, DC Comics Presents #17,*** and pages from ***Amazing World of DC #14.***

• ***Suicide Squad: Casualties of War TP,*** collecting ***Suicide Squad #s 1–12 (2001).***

• ***Tales from the DC Dark Multiverse II HC,*** collecting ***Tales from the Dark Multiverse: Batman—Hush #1, Tales from the Dark Multiverse: Flashpoint #1, Tales from the Dark Multiverse: Wonder Woman—War of the Gods #1, Tales from the Dark Multiverse: Crisis on Infinite Earths #1,*** and ***Tales from the Dark Multiverse: Dark Nights Metal #1,*** along with the stories that inspired these tales from ***Batman #619, Flashpoint #1, Wonder Woman: War of the Gods #4, Crisis on Infinite Earths #12,*** and ***Dark Nights: Metal #6.***

• ***Transmetropolitan Book Five TP,*** collecting ***Transmetropolitan #s 49–60.***

Coming Comics—Boom! in May

It's Elena vs the Umbra, with the future of Detroit on the line, in ***Abbott: 1973 #5*** (by *Saladin Ahmed & Sami Kivela).* But even if Elena can save those closest to her, nothing will ever be the same...

The truth about Buffy, the Scooby Gang, and their very existence is revealed in ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #25*** (by *Jeremy Lambert* and others). Every answer only leads to more questions... and straight to the Big(gest) Bad you never saw coming.

Leto has narrowly escaped death after an unexpected revolt on Ix and must now protect Rhombus and Kailea Vernius, children of the planet's rulers. While the Duke welcomes them with open arms in ***Dune: House Atreides #7*** (by *Brian Herbert, Kevin J. Anderson, & Dev Pramanik),* his wife Lady Helena is rebuffed and suspects that housing them could bring more harm than good. Meanwhile, Duncan Idaho is welcomed into Castle Atreides and discovers all may not be well...

When the ice caps melted, most of humanity was lost to the hidden disease that was released. Now, a mysterious girl named Eve has awoken in secret and must deal with a world that's nothing like the virtual reality in which she was raised in ***Eve #1*** (by *Victor LaValle & Jo Mi-Gyeong).* In order to save her real father, Eve must embark on a deadly quest across the country, but she has no idea of the threats that await her—or the price she will pay to restore life to a dying planet...

In ***Firefly #29*** (by *Greg Pak & Guillermo Sanna),* the crew of Serenity need to go where the Alliance can't reach them. And that one place may be The-Earth-That-Was, a strange world filled with ancient artifacts, a new civilization, and... maybe some semblance of hope. Well, if Captain Kaylee and Captain Mal can somehow get along...

In ***Firefly: Brand New 'Verse #3*** (by *Josh Lee Gordon & Fabiana Mascolo),* the Serenity soars once again, 20 years after the events of ***Firefly,*** and Zoe must complete the most important mission of her life: keeping her daughter Emma safe. But Emma doesn't see herself as needing protection and aims to misbehave in ways that are mighty familiar... which wouldn't be such a problem if the Blue Sun Corporation hadn't caught up to Serenity.

Saoirse confronts Badb in ***The Last Witch #5*** (by *Conor McCreeery & VV Glass).* With the full power of the Cailleach against her, can Saoirse avenge her hometown and protect her family from further tragedy?

With their homes rocked by an attack—and Jace Beleren's life hanging in the balance—Planeswalkers Kaya, Ral, and Vraska must discover who is behind it all in ***Magic #2*** (by *Jed MacKay & Ig Guara).* But as they begin to suspect one of Ravnica's biggest Guilds is behind the attack, it becomes clear their enemy may be plotting something even more destructive...

The avatar of Death now exists in the mortal world as 20-something Laila Starr after humanity begins the path to discovering immortality. In ***The Many Deaths of Laila Starr #2*** (by *Ram V & Filipe Andrade),* Laila unexpectedly meets the boy who will change everything at one of the formative moments in his life.

It's the New Mighty Morphin Team versus the New Green Ranger in ***Mighty Morphin #7*** (by *Ryan Parrott & Marco Renna).* But whoever's left standing will have to deal with Lord Zedd's shocking machinations... and his even more surprising ally.

The New Power Rangers and Drakkon are on the run in space in ***Power Rangers #7*** (by *Ryan Parrott & Francesco Mortarino),* but they must find new allies if they want to defeat the Empyreals. And that means trusting someone they're not sure is friend or foe if they are to save the universe.

The girls are supposed to stay out of trouble... and away from the haunted stretch of Proctor Valley Road. But a stolen police car leads to the return of the Proctor Valley Bull and more danger than anyone could imagine in ***Proctor Valley Road #3*** (by *Grant Morrison, Alex Child, & Naomi Franquiz).*

The origin of Erica Slaughter begins in ***Something Is Killing the Children #16*** (by *James Tynion IV & Werther Dell'Edera).* What shocking events brought Erica to the House of Slaughter, and what did she have to do to join the Order of St George?

The Specter Inspectors are on the trail of a demon and just met a ghost in ***Specter Inspectors #4*** (by *Bowen McCurdy* with *Kaitlyn Musto).* The problem is, that's the *good* news. Turns out Cape Grace has a whole lot of secrets, and none of them is good.

Fifty years have passed since Captain Malik and the crew of the Vihaan II embarked on their fateful mission—and the universe has changed in ways no one ever expected. Jason Hauer, one of the fated Vihaan II crew, is now 71 years old and living a life on the razor's edge between the Harvesters and the Worshippers. But as these rival religious factions clash throughout the galaxy, Jason finds himself thrown into the center of the chaos and forced to confront his tortured past in ***We Only Find Them When They're Dead #6*** (by *Al Ewing & Simone Di Meo).*

Wynd, Oakley, Thorn, and Yorik take the next step in their dangerous quest in ***Wynd #6*** (by *James Tynion IV & Michael Dialynas).* But what is the secret behind Wynd's terrifying visions? Meanwhile, back in Pipetown, the dying King Yossar does the unthinkable in his attempt to bring Yorik home—letting Vampyres into the city for the first time in generations.

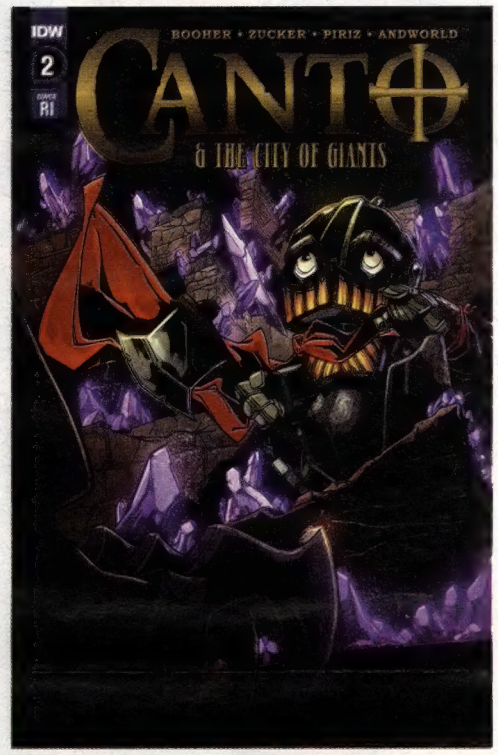
Boom! collected editions include:

• ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer Volume 6 TP,*** collecting ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #s 21–22*** and ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Faith #1.***

• ***Dune: House Atreides Volume 1 Limited Edition HC,*** a 500-copy edition collecting ***Dune: House Atreides #s 1–4.***

• ***Firefly: Blue Sun Rising Limited Edition HC,*** collecting ***Blue Sun Rising #s 0 & 1.***

• ***Once & Future Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***Once & Future #s 13–18.***



Coming Comics—IDW in May

Striking a bargain to free his giant friends, Canto must now enter a labyrinth and face a foul beast known as Ferro in ***Canto and the City of Giants #2*** (by *David M. Booher & Sebastian Piriz).* He has an untrustworthy weapon at his side—the Misturian Witch.

Outlaw Roy Mason has come back from the dead, chained to the headstone that marked his grave. On the trail of buried gold and hunted by a Big Bad, Roy struggles to hold his family—and his body—together in ***Chained to the Grave #4*** (by *Brian Level, Andy Eschenbach, & Kate Sherron).*

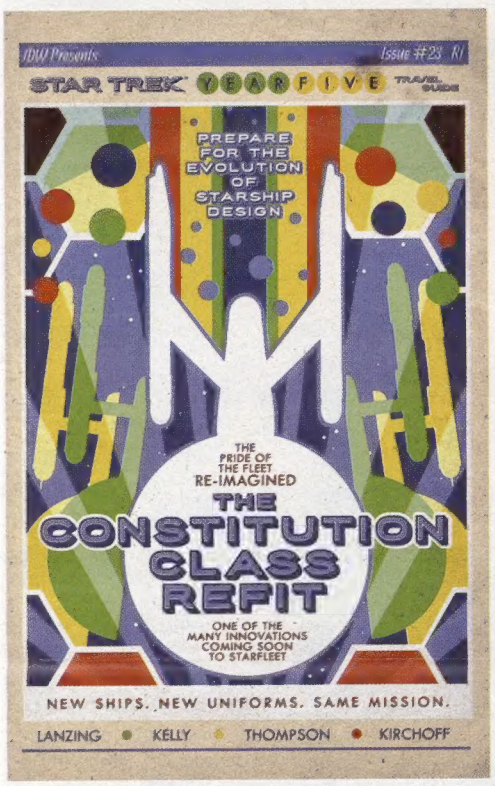
The world knows that the King of the Monsters has been riled up by the Linival energy plants, whose output sent Godzilla on a pan-Pacific destructive spree the likes of which the world has never seen—but the danger is greater than anyone knows. Godzilla is sitting in judgment on humanity, and the verdict could spell doom for life on Earth in ***Godzilla: Monsters & Protectors #2*** (by *Erik Burnham & Dan Schoening)*! The Shobijin become aware of this and know they could ask Mothra to intervene... but does humanity deserve Mothra's help?

The Seekers and the Wonderbolts form an uneasy alliance in ***My Little Pony/Transformers II #2*** (by *Ian Flynn, Sam Maggs, Priscilla Tramontano, & Trish Forstner).* Can Starscream and Rainbow Dash work togeth-

er to stop the evil attacking Cybertron?! Plus, Applejack and Wildwheel come face to face in a showdown for the ages!

Your favorite Flightless Fighting Friends, those Bouncy Battle Birds, are back in *Ray Friesen's* ***Pirate Penguin & Ninja Chicken Book 3: Macaroni & Bees HC,*** which features, among other things, the top-secret origin story of Pirate Penguin.

Have you ever wondered why the ocean has waves? Why the tide goes in and out? And how coral can be alive when it looks like a rock? Join the Surfside Girls, Sam and Jade, for a great investigation into everything that makes the ocean so cool in *Kim Dwinell's* ***The Science of Surfing: A Surfside Girls Guide to the Ocean.***


IDW Presents
Issue #23 RI
STAR TREK YEAR FIVE TRAVEL GUIDE
PREPARE FOR THE EVOLUTION OF STARSHIP DESIGN
THE PRIDE OF THE FLEET RE-IMAGINED
THE CONSTITUTION CLASS REFIT
ONE OF THE MANY INNOVATIONS COMING SOON TO STARFLEET
NEW SHIPS. NEW UNIFORMS. SAME MISSION.
LANZING • KELLY • THOMPSON • KIRCHOFF

For five years, the USS Enterprise and her crew have journeyed to the edge of the known universe, tackling impossible challenges and menacing foes along the way. But the biggest challenge of all awaits them here at home... and no matter what happens, the lives of Captain Kirk and his crew will be changed forever in ***Star Trek: Year Five #22*** (by *Jackson Lanzing, Collin Kelly, & Stephen Thompson),* kicking off the series' grand finale.

Mace Windu and his Lightning Squadron land on the planet Ridlay, which has gone mysteriously dark, expecting a Separatist

attack. But what they find in ***Star Wars Adventures #9*** (by *Michael Moreci, Vita Ayala, Michael Avon Oeming, & Devaun Dowdy)* is a surprise to them all. Then, Boba Fett makes his ***Star Wars Adventures*** debut.

The Rebel Alliance has destroyed the Empire's dreaded Death Star, but the Imperial starfleet continues hunting the rebels throughout the galaxy. Luke Skywalker now seeks to support the Rebellion as an X-wing fighter. But as he flies with the pilots of the Red Squadron, Luke feels stirrings of the Force in ***Star Wars Adventures: Weapon of a Jedi #1*** (by *Jason Fry, Alec Worley, & Ruairi Coleman),* adapting Fry's best-selling novel.

Zeen has followed the Jedi to the Starlight Beacon, where she learns what it means to be a Padawan and begins her own training in ***Star Wars: The High Republic Adventures #4*** (by *Daniel José Older, Harvey Tolibao, & Pow Rodrix).*

Star Wars: The Phantom Menace Graphic Novel Adaptation TP presents a young-reader-friendly adaptation of Episode I.

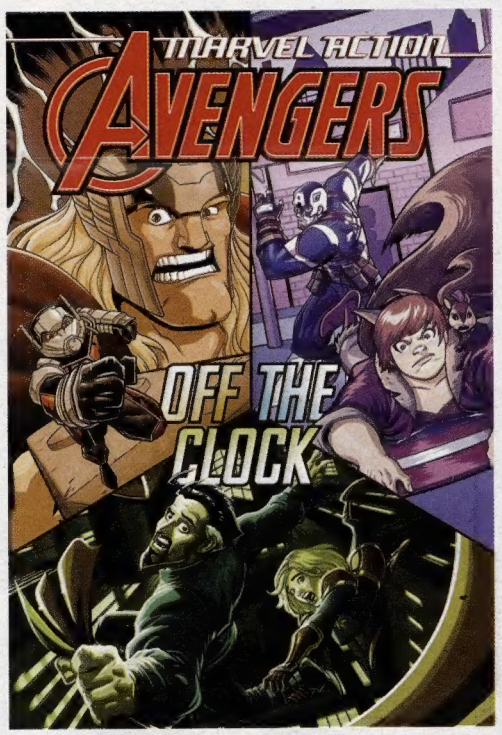
A winner is crowned in Jennika's battle of the bands, and two old foes make surprising revelations as the TMNT and allies prepare to take Mutant Town in a new direction in *Sophie Campbell's* ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #117.***

Giovanni Batista is a third-class maintainer of the Tower. His section is deteriorating more and more by the day, and he has not heard from any of his inspectors or fellow maintainers in months. He makes the decision to file a complaint and goes to the base office, where he meets Ellias Aureolus Palingenius and the lovely Milena. Together with Milena, he tries to figure out the purpose of the Tower in ***The Tower TP*** (by *Benoît Peeters & François Schuiten*).

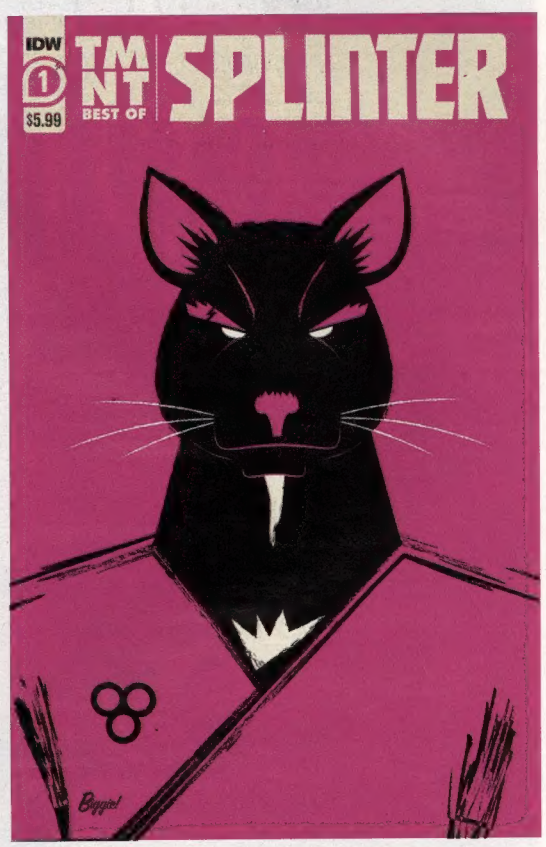
When Vigilem, a Cybertronian Titan, flees to a colony run by Thunderwing and his lackeys, Lightbright, Lodestar, and the Technobots will have to go on the most dangerous mission of their lives in ***Transformers Annual 2021*** (by *Brian Ruckley & Alex Milne).*

IDW collected editions (advance solicited for June and July release) include:

- ***The Comic Book History of Animation: True Toon Tales of the Most Iconic Characters, Artists, and Styles TP,*** collecting the five-issue series.
- ***Dungeons & Dragons: At the Spine of the World,*** collecting the four-issue series.
- ***The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Volume 4: The Tempest,*** collecting the six-issue series.
- ***Marvel Action: Avengers—Off the Clock TP,*** collecting ***Marvel Action: Avengers v2 #s 1–3.***



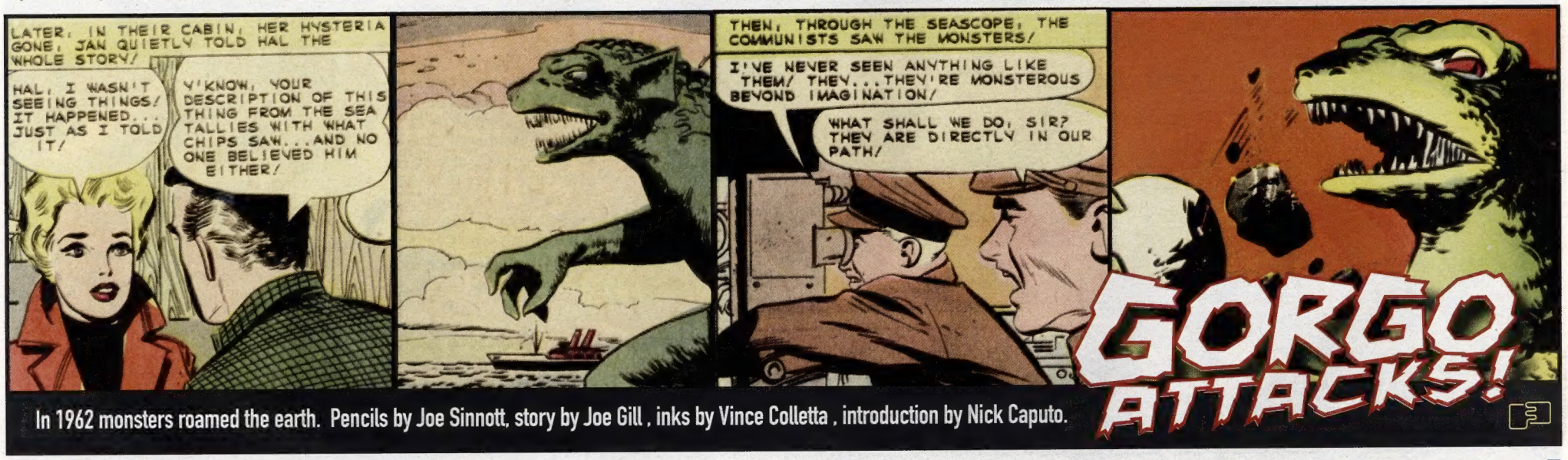
- ***Snake Eyes: Deadgame TP,*** collecting the five-issue series by *Rob Liefeld.*
- ***Star Trek: Voyager: Seven's Reckoning TP,*** collecting the four-issue series.



- ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Best of Splinter,*** presenting 100 pages of Splinter-centric tales.
- ***Transformers Volume 4: Declaration of War HC,*** collecting ***Transformers #s 25–30,*** the ***Valentine's Day Special*** oneshot, and ***Transformers: Escape #s 1–5.***

If you enjoy reading *CSN* each week, don't thank us, thank your retailer! They pay for the copies they give out, because they know that informed readers are better customers.

And because, you know, love.


LATER, IN THEIR CABIN, HER HYSTERIA GONE, JAN QUIETLY TOLD HAL THE WHOLE STORY/
HAL, I WASN'T SEEING THINGS/ IT HAPPENED... JUST AS I TOLD IT/
Y'KNOW, YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THIS THING FROM THE SEA TALLIES WITH WHAT CHIPS SAW...AND NO ONE BELIEVED HIM EITHER/
THEN, THROUGH THE SEASCOPE, THE COMMUNISTS SAW THE MONSTERS/
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM/ THEY...THEY'RE MONSTEROUS BEYOND IMAGINATION/
WHAT SHALL WE DO, SIR? THEY ARE DIRECTLY IN OUR PATH/
GORGO ATTACKS!
In 1962 monsters roamed the earth. Pencils by Joe Sinnott, story by Joe Gill , inks by Vince Colletta , introduction by Nick Caputo.